

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 and 2011.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this bill which will help entrepreneurs grow their businesses through the expanded use of cutting-edge technology. This bill is a bipartisan product introduced by Representative THOMPSON from Pennsylvania and promises to go a long way in helping small firms flourish. Entrepreneurship is the tested tool for powering economies. So it should come as no surprise that entrepreneurial development, or ED, programs, have a track record for sparking growth. In fact, every \$1 put into these initiatives puts another \$2.87 into the Treasury. You cannot argue with that kind of return, especially at a time when our economy is fighting to recover.

While small business growth is important to any community, it is especially vital in struggling rural regions and urban areas. When recession hits, these areas fall the hardest. That is why this bill is so important. Through the use of cutting-edge technology, it delivers entrepreneurial development training to Americans everywhere. In doing so, it encourages business growth in places where it might not otherwise take root.

This is critical because entrepreneurship is more than a means of employment. It is a path to economic independence. Technology is often referred to as the great equalizer. It is an avenue through which all businesses, large and small, can attract new customers and reach untapped markets. It is also an effective means for delivering information and sharing data.

The Educating Entrepreneurs through Today's Technology Act builds on those two capabilities. With the click of a mouse, an aspiring entrepreneur in Appalachia can participate in a training program broadcast out of San Francisco. Resources such as satellite seminars and online information sessions make it easy for entrepreneurs everywhere to access information on a broad range of topics. Starting and running a small business can be chal-

lenging. In the current environment, even seasoned entrepreneurs are struggling to adapt. Proper training in areas like credit management, financial literacy and Federal small business programs are more important than ever. Whether we are talking about fledgling entrepreneurs or those with years of experience, everyone can benefit from this kind of information.

There is no question that our economy looks different today than it did the last time SBA's ED programs were updated. In terms of technology alone, we have grown by leaps and bounds. This bill reflects that change. It makes sure small firms can use modern technology to the best of their advantage. With these services, startups will be able to build a solid business foundation. Meanwhile, established firms will be able to retool and improve their existing operations.

As we continue to work our way towards recovery, small businesses will be on the front lines. It only makes sense to give them all the tools they need to succeed because with the technology of today they can help build prosperity for tomorrow. Mr. THOMPSON's bill gives them the resources to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1807, the Educating Entrepreneurs through Today's Technology Act. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, employing roughly half of United States workers. While our communities are experiencing high unemployment rates, the entrepreneurial spirit remains alive and well. For many underserved and rural areas, it is critical to have the opportunity and the ability to tap into resources that will foster further economic development and provide prospective entrepreneurs with the same access afforded to their suburban and urban counterparts.

H.R. 1807 will allow third parties the opportunity to provide high-quality tele-distance training through a competitive grants process administered by the SBA. The measure will provide for third-party vendors with experience in distance learning content and communications technology. It will employ online, satellite, video-connected, community-based organizations to distribute and conduct distance learning related to entrepreneurship, credit management, financial literacy, home-ownership and Federal small business development programs.

The Small Business Administration will ensure that the communications technology is distributed through all 50 States and U.S. territories to home-based businesses, Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, Veterans Business Centers and SBA district offices. Additionally, this measure would require that the online distance learning program provided for

in title II of the bill, include the establishment of an online networking site where entrepreneurs and small business owners can go to interact with one another. The goal of this networking site is to facilitate the exchange of peer-to-peer technical assistance.

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This will allow for prospective and established entrepreneurs and small business owners to interact with each other to troubleshoot problems and share best practices for interacting with SBA, securing financing, navigating government regulations, and the slew of odds and ends that arise when getting a small business off the ground. There is no substitute for being able to fall back on lessons learned from experience, and peer to peer will arm current and prospective entrepreneurs with this priceless information from individuals who have been there before.

Mr. Speaker, for many entrepreneurs across the country, in order to access SBA and Small Business Development Centers they have to drive long distances. In my rural district, we have learned to use our limited resources wisely, and this can also be said for rural and underserved communities across the Nation.

This measure recognizes a one-size-fits-all textbook approach to addressing entrepreneurial concerns is seldom the solution. Passage of this measure will empower these very entrepreneurs to navigate the many hurdles facing emerging businesses.

I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1807 and continue the House's commitment to our Nation's entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1807, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1513) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1513

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109–316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 1 of Public Law 111–10 (123 Stat. 990), is amended by striking “July 31, 2009” each place it appears and inserting “September 30, 2009”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on July 30, 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

All of us on both sides of the aisle agree that America's small businesses will be the cornerstone of our economic recovery. Not only are small businesses more nimble and better able to respond to economic turbulence, but after losing their jobs many Americans turn to entrepreneurship as a new source of income. This ingenuity has led us out of previous recessions. With the right tools and support, I believe small businesses will again lead our Nation back to recovery.

Since January, this Congress has taken important steps to help our small businesses. The Recovery Act is helping address the single biggest challenge facing entrepreneurs today, namely, access to affordable capital. By making improvements to the SBA's capital access programs, this bill will yield \$21 billion in new lending and investment for small firms. We have also targeted \$15 billion in new tax relief to small businesses through the act, and many small companies are being put back to work rebuilding our economic infrastructure. In fact, small businesses which dominate trades like construction and engineering can expect to see \$30 billion in infrastructure opportunities thanks to the Recovery Act.

However, our work on behalf of small businesses does not stop there. In May, this body passed bipartisan legislation to update and improve the SBA's Entrepreneurial Development programs. These initiatives have a solid track record of success. Small businesses that use them are twice as likely to succeed.

Last year alone, ED programs helped create 73,000 new jobs. The legislation we passed in May will build on this success. Through outreach to targeted communities like veterans, our bill will ensure more companies take advantage of these services. And the legislation responds to current economic pressures by helping dislocated workers start their own enterprises and offering expert consulting to troubled businesses.

Finally, in the last month we have worked to update the Small Business Innovation Research program and the Small Business Technology Transfer program. Every year, through SBIR and STTR, some of our largest Federal agencies invest \$2.2 billion in small business research. This infusion helps launch 1,500 new companies. The House-passed bill will strengthen the SBIR program in a number of ways. It will make it easier for companies participating in SBIR to access venture capital. We have also adjusted the size of program grants to better reflect the research costs. And we have targeted the program toward commercialization so more products come to the market and there are further opportunities for job creation.

Mr. Speaker, all of these measures will update and improve Federal programs that small businesses rely on. As we speak, the committee is continuing work with our counterparts in the Senate to finalize these bills, prepare them for final passage, and get them to the President for his signature.

However, as the current programs at the SBA expire at the end of this month, we must pass an extension so that our legislative work can continue. The bill before us will keep existing initiatives at the SBA running for another 60 days. This will allow us time to finalize these measures and prepare them for final passage.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the chairwoman's request to suspend the rules and pass S. 1513.

The bill is very simple. It extends the authorization of all programs authorized by the Small Business Act, the Small Business Investment Act, and any program operated by the Small Business Administration for which Congress has already appropriated funds. This extension will last until September 30, 2009. This extension is necessary because the authorization for various programs operated by SBA ceases on July 30, 2009.

The committee has worked in a bipartisan fashion over the past two Congresses and reported out a number of bills to address programs operated by the SBA. Despite the efforts of the House, the extension passed earlier this year by both parties of Congress will

expire before the legislative process can run its course. The work needed to help America's entrepreneurs revitalize the economy simply cannot be accomplished by Friday of this week. Without enactment of this extension, a number of vital programs that SBA operates would cease to function.

Given the importance that small businesses play and will continue to play in the revitalization of the American economy, we cannot allow the SBA authorizations to run out. Enactment of this extension will enable the House and Senate to continue to work in a diligent manner to address necessary changes to SBA programs.

I urge all my colleagues to suspend the rules and pass S. 1513.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1513, legislation that would provide a short term extension of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. While I wish that our colleagues in the Senate would have taken up the House-passed H.R. 2965 before the programs' scheduled expiration on July 31, I believe that it is imperative that we act quickly so as not to lose the ability to help small businesses, who are the biggest job creators in our country.

Small business drives U.S. economic growth and innovation. These companies make up 99.7 percent of all U.S. employers and employ nearly half of all Americans not working for the government. In addition, small businesses employ 39 percent of high-tech workers such as scientists and engineers, and produce 13 to 14 times more patents per employee than do large firms.

Mr. Speaker, the SBIR and STTR programs were created to provide critical funding to these companies so they could conduct R&D that they otherwise would not be able to afford. These programs also provide further funding to commercialize promising technology resulting from this R&D.

Since their inception in 1982, these programs continue to provide over \$2 billion in grants and contracts each year and have provided the start-up funding for hundreds of small businesses in the United States.

In my own State of Georgia, Georgia Tech provides assistance to small business initiatives across the State, and as a result, companies have received over \$244 million in SBIR and STTR grants since the programs' inception. In my northwest Georgia district alone, over \$3.3 million in SBIR grants were awarded in fiscal year 2008.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, both Chambers of Congress passed respective legislation to fully reauthorize the SBIR and STTR programs. It is my hope that after we return from the annual August recess, we can work in a bipartisan and bicameral way to pass this important reauthorization. These programs have been effective in providing government assistance to small businesses to help more people in our country achieve the American Dream. We need to ensure that both SBIR and STTR are extended until September 30 so that we can continue to foster small business development in the emerging technology-based global economy—while we work with our Senate colleagues for a full reauthorization.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this short-term extension by voting in favor of S. 1513.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1513.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

COAST GUARD ACQUISITION REFORM ACT OF 2009

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1665) to structure Coast Guard acquisition processes and policies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1665

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Coast Guard Acquisition Reform Act of 2009".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS

Sec. 101. Procurement structure.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD ACQUISITION POLICY

Sec. 201. Operational requirements.

Sec. 202. Required contract terms.

Sec. 203. Life-cycle cost estimates.

Sec. 204. Test and evaluation.

Sec. 205. Capability standards.

Sec. 206. Acquisition program reports.

Sec. 207. Unfinalized contractual actions.

Sec. 208. Guidance on excessive pass-through charges.

Sec. 209. Acquisition of major capabilities: Alternatives analysis.

Sec. 210. Cost overruns and delays.

Sec. 211. Report on former Coast Guard officials employed by contractors to the agency.

Sec. 212. Department of Defense consultation.

TITLE III—COAST GUARD PERSONNEL

Sec. 301. Chief Acquisition Officer.

Sec. 302. Improvements in Coast Guard acquisition management.

Sec. 303. Recognition of Coast Guard personnel for excellence in acquisition.

Sec. 304. Enhanced status quo officer promotion system.

Sec. 305. Coast Guard acquisition workforce expedited hiring authority.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) COMMANDANT.—The term "Commandant" means the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

(3) LEVEL 1 ACQUISITION.—The term "Level 1 acquisition" means—

(A) an acquisition by the Coast Guard—

(i) the estimated life-cycle costs of which exceed \$1,000,000,000; or

(ii) the estimated total acquisition costs of which exceed \$300,000,000; or

(B) any acquisition that the Chief Acquisition Officer of the Coast Guard determines to have a special interest—

(i) due to—

(I) the experimental or technically immature nature of the asset;

(II) the technological complexity of the asset;

(III) the commitment of resources; or

(IV) the nature of the capability or set of capabilities to be achieved; or

(ii) because such acquisition is a joint acquisition.

(4) LEVEL 2 ACQUISITION.—The term "Level 2 acquisition" means an acquisition by the Coast Guard—

(A) the estimated life-cycle costs of which are equal to or less than \$1,000,000,000, but greater than \$300,000,000; or

(B) the estimated total acquisition costs of which are equal to or less than \$300,000,000, but greater than \$100,000,000.

(5) LIFE-CYCLE COST.—The term "life-cycle cost" means all costs for development, procurement, construction, and operations and support for a particular capability or asset, without regard to funding source or management control.

TITLE I—RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS

SEC. 101. PROCUREMENT STRUCTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) USE OF LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Commandant may not use a private sector entity as a lead systems integrator for an acquisition contract awarded or delivery order or task order issued after the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION.—The Commandant and any lead systems integrator engaged by the Coast Guard shall use full and open competition for any acquisition contract awarded after the date of enactment of this Act, unless otherwise excepted in accordance with Federal acquisition laws and regulations promulgated under those laws, including the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(3) NO EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS ACT.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to supersede or otherwise affect the authorities provided by and under the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.).

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) NATIONAL DISTRESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEM MODERNIZATION PROGRAM; NATIONAL SECURITY CUTTERS 2 AND 3.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (e), the Commandant may use a private sector entity as a lead systems integrator for the Coast Guard to complete the National Distress and Response System Modernization Program (otherwise known as the "Rescue 21" program) and National Security Cutters 2 and 3.

(2) COMPLETION OF ACQUISITION BY LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Commandant may use a private sector entity as a lead systems integrator for the Coast Guard—

(A) to complete any delivery order or task order, including the exercise of previously established options on a delivery order or task order that was issued to a lead systems integrator on or before the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act without any change in the quantity of capabilities or assets or the specific type of capabilities or assets covered by the order;

(B) for a contract awarded after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act for acquisition of, or in support of, the HC-130J aircraft, the HH-65 aircraft, or the C4ISR system, if the requirements of subsection (c) are met with respect to such acquisitions;

(C) for a contract awarded after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act for acquisition of, or in support of, Maritime Patrol Aircraft, if the requirements of subsection (c) are met with respect to such an acquisition; and

(D) for the acquisition of, or in support of, additional National Security Cutters or Maritime Patrol Aircraft, if the Commandant determines that—

(i) the acquisition is in accordance with Federal acquisition laws and regulations promulgated under those laws, including the Federal Acquisition Regulation;

(ii) the acquisition and the use of a private sector entity as a lead systems integrator for the acquisition are in the best interest of the Federal Government; and

(iii) the requirements of subsection (c) are met with respect to such acquisition.

(3) REPORT ON DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.—If the Commandant determines under subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (b)(2) that the Coast Guard will use a private sector lead systems integrator for an acquisition, the Commandant shall notify in writing the appropriate congressional committees of the Commandant's determination and shall provide a detailed rationale for the determination, at least 30 days before the award of a contract or issuance of a delivery order or task order, using a private sector lead systems integrator, including a comparison of the cost of the acquisition through the private sector lead systems integrator with the expected cost if the acquisition were awarded directly to the manufacturer or shipyard. For purposes of that comparison, the cost of award directly to a manufacturer or shipyard shall include the costs of Government contract management and oversight.

(c) LIMITATION ON LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS.—Neither an entity performing lead systems integrator functions for a Coast Guard acquisition nor a Tier 1 subcontractor for any acquisition described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (b)(2) may have a financial interest in a subcontractor below the Tier 1 subcontractor level unless—

(1) the subcontractor was selected by the prime contractor through full and open competition for such procurement;

(2) the procurement was awarded by the lead systems integrator or a subcontractor through full and open competition;

(3) the procurement was awarded by a subcontractor through a process over which the lead systems integrator or a Tier 1 subcontractor exercised no control; or

(4) the Commandant has determined that the procurement was awarded in a manner consistent with Federal acquisition laws and regulations promulgated under those laws, including the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The limitation in subsection (b)(1)(A) on the quantity and specific type of assets to which subsection